

In This Issue

Mail is disrupted in many ways when war intervenes. During World War I, mail was handled differently as various countries remained neutral or finally joined in with a declaration for one side or the other. **Robert Johnson** has assembled an interesting array of covers, which he explains in **Service Suspended: U.S. Postal Services in WWI and in Europe in Its Aftermath**. This first half of the article deals with mail to, from and through the United States, particularly at the beginning of the war while the U.S. remained neutral.

Cover Story offers an unusual cover from **Ford to Ford**, or the Ford representative in Chile to the home office in Dearborn, Michigan. **Roger Schnell** shows how this cover of 100 grams, or about 3½ ounces, wound up having the largest known block of the 10 peso airmail stamps of Chile.

Some mail is so rare that it is presumed to be theoretically available until an actual example is found. **Kees Adema** tells in “*A Spanish Rara Avis*” of how a Dutch Brigade of 3,000 troops was requested by Napoleon to help in the Peninsular War of 1807. Poorly equipped and starving, they were challenged all the way by guerrillas. By 1811, fewer than half remained, and only a few dozen eventually returned to Holland. A single cover is thus far known, which unsuccessfully tried to reach a captain of the regiment, and ultimately was returned. Deciphering all the markings tells a poignant story.

In a return to early African mail, **Patrick Maselis** tells of early mail in the area of present day Sudan. His account **Early Mail from Equatoria (the Egyptian Sudan): 1840–1888**, features letters sent by or about some of the few westerners in those early days, including General “Chinese” Gordon.

The Balkans seem always to be an area of intrigue. **David Herendeen** discusses the way that many of the constituent countries that ultimately became Yugoslavia charged postage due, in **The Evolution of Postage Due in Proto-Yugoslavia**.

The **At the Clubhouse** feature reports on the two talks after the summer break; **Wade Saadi**’s “Struck on Stamps” and a fascinating discussion of the Plate 77 1d by **Abed Najjar** and **Professor Gene Hall**, who showed how the scientific examination of the cover proved that it had not been manipulated.

On the Cover: A letter with a parcel post 5¢ paying the rate to Germany was sent from St. Louis before the beginning of World War I. While en route, war was declared, so the cover was returned from England.

Correction, from John Sacher

Too late to be included in the last issue, John Sacher, past president of the RPSL, sent a long and detailed set of comments about the article by Robert Allison and Robert Johnson regarding Orange Free State and the Cape of Good Hope rate to the United States. Space here does not permit details, so please see the editorial page for more information.